

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LAHORE

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 021821

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR,PK

SUBJECT: ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE

REF: LAHORE 0048, 1/11/74

1. PRECEDENT TO ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION WAS MEETING CALLED IN JIDDA IN 1966 AS KING FAYSAL'S FIRST ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE BROADER LEADERSHIP ROLE. CONVENTION DESIGNED TO COUNTER SECULAR TREND OF NASSER'S PAN-ARAB NATIONALISM, PROJECT ISLAMIC FAITH AS PROPER CENTER OF ANY REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND POINT UP FAYSAL'S STATURE AS HEREDITARY PROTECTOR OF MUSLIM HOLY PLACES. HIS INITIATIVE ATTACKED BY ARAB RADICALS AS RETROGRADE AND LINKED IN SOME OBSCURE WAY TO IMPERIALIST POLICIES. CRITICS CAUTIOUS, HOWEVER, AS NONE (INCLUDING NASSER) WISHED TO BE LABELLED IRRELIGIOUS.

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FAYSAL HAD READY-MADE ANSWER THAT CONFERENCE WAS MEANS OF

ENGAGING WIDER ISLAMIC WORLD B*HIND ARABS VS. ISRAEL.
MEETING WAS LARGELY BELOW HEADS-OF-STATE LEVEL.

2. FIRST TRUE ISLAMIC SUMMIT HELD 22 SEPTEMBER 69 IN RAB-
AT ON EMOTIONAL ISSUE OF RECENT FIRE IN AL-AQSA MOSQUE.
MODERATES WELCOMED CONFERENCE AS ALTERNATIVE TO NASSER'S
CALL FOR ARAB SUMMIT ON SAME INCIDENT. ;MEETING CALLED
INTER ALIA FOR FOREIGN MINISTERS TO CONVENE IN 1970 TO RE-
VIEW PERFORMANCE ON RESOLUTIONS AND TO LAY DOWN BASIS FOR
A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT.

3. ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' FIRST SESSION HELD 23 MARCH
70 IN JIDDA. MEETING ACCOMPLISHED MAIN SAUDI DESIDERATUM
OF MAKING ORGANIZATION PERMANENT, BASED IN JIDDA, DESPITE
STRENUOUS OBJECTIONS OF EGYPT, LIBYA, AND SUDAN. OPEN
DIFFERENCE REVEALED, WHICH HAS CONTINUED, BETWEEN ARAB
MEMBERS SEEKING TO KEEP ISRAEL AND PALESTINE AS MAIN FOCUS,
AND NON-ARABS WISHING AVOID ENTANGLEMENT IN ISRAEL-ARAB
STRIFE. INDIA, PRESENT AT EARLIER SESSIONS, EXCLUDED ON
INSISTENCE OF PAKISTAN. IRAQ, SYRIA, AND PDRY BOYCOTTED;
INDEED, INTERNAL STRESSES SUCH THAT FULL MEMBERSHIP HAS
NEVER BEEN PRESENT AT FOREIGN MINISTER-LEVEL CONFERENCE.

4. PAKISTAN HAS SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION FROM THE FIRST AND
CAME TO VALUE IT EVEN MORE AS ARAB SUPPORT DURING WAR
WITH INDIA MOUNTED TECHNICALLY UNDER ITS AUSPICES.

5. FOREIGN MINISTERS' FOURTH AND MOST RECENT MEETING HELD
24 MARCH IN BENGHAZI. PHILLIPINE MUSLIMS REQUEST TO
ATTEND WAS REFUSED,*NEVERTHELESS, IN ADDITION TO STANDARD
RESES ON PALESTINE AND ISRAELI-OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, A RES
WAS DIRECTED TO SOLVING PLIGHT OF MUSLIMS IN PHILIPPINE
AND ENDING "THE ACTS OF SUPPRESSION AND ANNIHILATION TO
WHICH THEY ARE EXPOSED...." CONFERENCE FAVORED
INDEPENDENCE FOR FRENCH SOMALILAND, SUPPORTED ELF IN
ERITREA. FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE TO MEET LATER THIS YEAR
IN KABUL.

6. LAHORE MEETING WILL BE SECOND AT CHIEFS OF STATE
LEVEL. (NOTE THAT THIS ORGANIZATION HAS NO CONNECTION
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WITH NONALIGNED MOVEMENT, IN FACT SOMEWHAT COMPETITIVE.)
FOREGOING MAY SET NO PRECEDENT, AS OIL IS LIKELY TO BE
NEW, MAJOR SUBJECT. IF NON-ARABS VENT THEIR CONCERNS
OVER EFFECTS OF HIGH OIL PRICES, MEETING MAY SEE NEW LEVEL
OF STRAIN BETWEEN ARAB AND NON-ARAB MEMBERS. PRIOR
PROPOSAL FOR ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK MAY BE PRESSED IN
THIS CONTEXT. ARAB DIFFERENCES RE DISENGAGEMENT/SETTLE-
MENT EFFORTS MAY BE PROJECTED ON CONFERENCE. WILL BE

INTERESTING TO SEE IF AND IN WHAT DIRECTION PALESTINIANS
WILL LOBBY. KISSINGER

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